

SHUFRO, ROSE & EHRMAN

MEMBERS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

MEMBERS AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

63 WALL STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005 • TEL. (212) 344-7760

JOSEPH R. LASSER
PARTNER

5/15/72

Dear Mr. Newman —

Thanks for the instruction and offer to give me some "leads" in sources for additional specimens for my Colonial Currency Collection. You were most kind and openly candid although, obviously, you do not know me, and therefore could have been quite curt with me on the telephone.

I will forward a list
of my present holdings
later this week so that
you will be able to
let me know if any material
I do not have might become
available.

I have attempted to adhere
to the principle of obtaining
the best quality notes I could
find and have been reasonably
successful in my efforts. I
am especially happy that I
have an uncirculated Revenue

series and some prime condition Connecticut and New York notes. Jersey has been relatively easy to obtain, and similarly Rhode Island has not been difficult. New Hampshire and the Carolinas have not been easy to find in prime state, and ~~the~~ Vermont has been impossible.

Examples of early notes also have been unavailable. I have seen nothing for sale in the pre-1740 period.

Thanks for your consideration.
I will write again, shortly
Appreciatively,
Joe Lawer

JOSEPH R. LASSER
119 CUSHMAN ROAD
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583

5/16/72

Dear Mr. Yewman -

Enclosed find a list
of my Colonial and Continental
currency. Spoke to Dick
Piker today and found him
delightful - Thanks for giving
me his address - I've learned
a little more about the field
just by a brief chat with
him. The above is my home
address should you desire
it. Once again, with
much appreciation
for your kindness -
Joe Lasser

Page 6

Joseph R. Lasser
Holdings of
Colonial & Continental Currency
as of 5/15/72

Continental Currency

5/10/75 #5

6

30

11/29/75 #3

7

8

2/17/76 #1/3

1/2

3

4

5

5/9/76 #5

6

7/22/76 #5

Joseph Jauer list

(2) of 4

11/2/76 \$2

5/20/77 \$3
7

4/11/78 40

9/26/78 40
50

1/14/79 3
40
~~45~~
65
70

Joseph Janet 115

W f b

Connecticut

6/7/76 1s

6/19/76 6d
9d
5s

4/11/77 2d blue
3d
4d
5d
7d

Delaware

1/1/76 5s
10s
20s

Georgia

1776 1s
1776 Blue Seal #10
1776 Orange Seal #1
9/10/77 #1/2
5/4/78 20

Joseph James list

(17) of 6

Maryland
4/10/74 \$1
6

8/14/76 \$4
6

Massachusetts
10/10/78 full set

5/5/80 \$1
20

New Hampshire
4/29/80 \$3

New Jersey
12/31/63 13
18d
12s

3/25/76 1s
18d
3s
6s

Joseph James 1st

(5) of 1

New Jersey

3/25/76 12s

15s

30s

£ 3

6/9/80 # 2

New York

Water Works

1/6/76 4s

3/5/76 8s

3/5/76 #1

North Carolina

12/-/71 5s

30s

5/10/80 # 50

250

Pennsylvania

4/3/72 2s6d

10/1/73 15s

500

Joseph Land 1st

⑥ of 6

Pennsylvania

4/10/75 50s

\$5

10/25/75 5s

4/10/77 \$4

Rhode Island

7/2/80 \$2

7

5/-/86 3s

20s

30s

40s

\$3

South Carolina

12/23/77(6) \$4

2/8/79 \$90

Virginia

9/1/75 Jas. River Bank 20s

7/14/80 \$60

3/1/81 \$500

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 19, 1972

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
119 Cushman Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

Dear Mr. Lasser:

Thank you for your inventory of Colonial and Continental pieces. You are off to a fine start.

I would like to ask two questions with respect to your Massachusetts 1778 set.

Would you advise me whether these are uncirculated, or whether they are worn. If they are uncirculated, would you give me the numbers of the bills.

With respect to your South Carolina \$4 December 23, 1777, would you give me the signatures on the bill and also tell me the condition of that bill.

I am glad you and Mr. Picker got along.

If further Colonials belonging to others come my way, I may be able to help you.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

JOSEPH R. LASSER
119 CUSHMAN ROAD
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583

May 23, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic
Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks for your letter of May 19th.

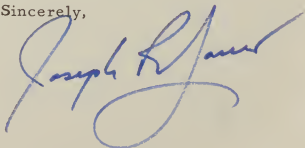
The appropriate description of my South Carolina \$4 December 23, 1977 bill is as follows; the bill is uncirculated, unnumbered, with a single center fold. It is untrimmed from its original sheet giving the wide borders on the left and bottom of the obverse of the note. The text date of December 23, 1977, has been corrected with brown ink to 1776. There is a single signature - J. Wakefield. The note was purchased 3/24/71.

The Massachusetts notes are, to my mind, unquestionably the best pieces in my collection. They are crisp and uncirculated. Some were purchased 3/24/71, and the remainder 4/28/71. The numbers are as follows:

2d #5752	1s #5752
3d #5752	1s6d #5760
4d #5760	2s #5759
6d #5753	3s #5761
8d #5756	4s #5760
9d #5760	4s6d #5747

It's a pleasure to be in touch with you, and I hope to meet you personally within the reasonably near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Lasser", written in a cursive style.

SHUFRO, ROSE & EHRMAN

MEMBERS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

MEMBERS AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

63 WALL STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005 • TEL. (212) 344-7760

2/26/73

Dear Eric -

Enclosed are the xeroxes of the two Rhode Island sheets. The "middle values" sheet is standard in every respect with the normal paper edging.

However, the slash cancelled sheet is a disaster. After acquiring it, I thought it would be best to have it framed so that there would be minimum stress on the slash cancellation

by putting the sheet between two sheets of glass. The firm that did the job, Heydenreich, has a reputation for doing excellent museum work -- and their reputation plus instructions not to touch or alter the sheet seemed sufficient precautions to instruct them to go ahead.

Well, they did it. Approximately one inch has been trimmed from the right side and $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top and bottom. Hinges also have been attached. Because the razor slashing on the twenty and thirty shilling notes is barely visible on the Xerox

I have put the approximate configuration in the sheet with a pen. I did not know the sheet had been damaged by Heydensayk until I opened the frame to send the Xerox on to you -- and I'm disconsolate about my discovery to say the least.

Would love to hear from you if you have any comments on either R.I. sheet or if I ~~can~~ have any thing of interest to you in the sense of information, assistance etc.

Sincerely, Joe Jones

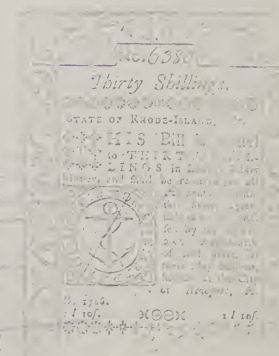
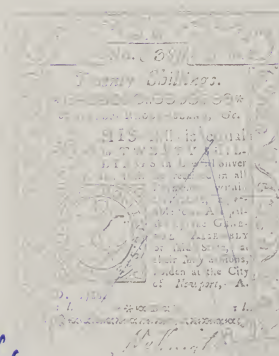
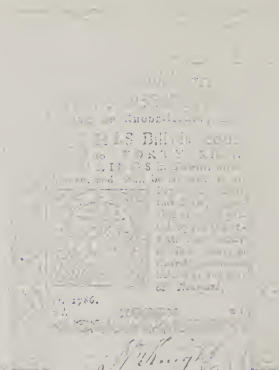
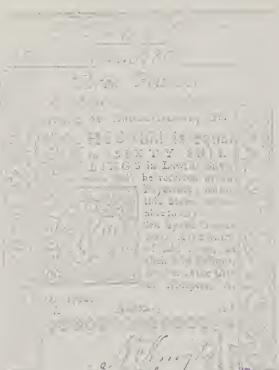
W. H. ...

W. H. H. H.
S. H. H. H.

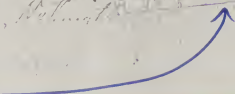


Slashed Sheet

No razor slashing



Razor
slashed
type
cancelling



Mounting
by Heydenreyk
Trimmed by Heydenreyk

Trimmed in error by Heydenreyk

Trimmed by Heydenreyk

March 2, 1973

Mr. Joe Lasser
Shufro, Rose & Ehrman
63 Wall Street
New York, N. Y. 10005

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter and its enclosures.

When I checked the changes in my book, I found that I already had the detail on the middle-volume sheet. My notes show that the sheet consists of eight notes, four faces and four backs being printed on each side.

I have noted your apparent slash marks and do not know what the purpose might have been for so many. The notes were not individually slashed.

I am sorry that your framer trimmed your sheet.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:m

JOSEPH R. LASSER
119 CUSHMAN ROAD
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583

7/30/73

Dear Eric -

For the past month, I have been reviewing my Colonial currency collection; checking signatures, spelling of names etc. and have found additional minor disparities between my notes and your volume.

Recognizing that it is doubtful that I have turned up anything that you probably are not already aware of -- and knowing that you

have a daughter in Westport,
Conn. who you visit on
occasion, may I extend
to you an invitation to
come to my house and
visit with me -- with
an eye toward chatting
about the variances that
have come to my attention.

We are within 45 minutes
of Westport and it would
be my pleasure to pick you
up and bring you back --
if that would be the most
convenient procedure --

Best Regards -

Joe Jones

August 3, 1973

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
119 Cushman Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

Dear Joe:

I just returned from a vacation in New Guinea and am struggling with my mail. I was delighted to have your note about getting together. My daughter is Mrs. Peter Solomon, 424 Cascade Road, North Stamford, Connecticut. The next time I come up there I will look forward to spending some time with you.

We still have an open matter with respect to the stamp and I haven't forgotten about it.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

PEN:jah

JOSEPH R. LASSER
119 CUSHMAN ROAD
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583

8/7/73

Dear Eric -

I was most pleased
to receive your note
last night and I look
forward to visiting with
you in the not too distant
future.

Best Regards -

Joe Lasser

Ed
Lassus

N.C

One only
of each date of issue

9/9/73
Stamford

He Han

1748

1754

1760

1761

1762

1771

1776

1778

1779

1780

Try to find
miserable copy
of some other
date

to exchange for
175 Va + bill of indictment

Corrections to SP.MOA

- ✓ Mass 6/18/76 55Hd S Hall, Tex[✓]
- Cont 1/14/79 #55 M. Cathis ^{Cather} (with Wyter)
- ✓ Ga 1776 #2 Houstoun not Houston
- ✓ Ga 1776 #4 ✓ Habersham not Haversham
- ✓ Ga 1776 #2 P. Basil (blue jays)

~~Ga 1776 55h~~

(No change) Ga 1776 ^{William} ~~M. J. Jones~~ #20 Maroon 55h Crown

#1 Mass ^{6/18} 1776 J B. at ca

- ✓ 6/9/80 N.J. #1 D. ~~Mearley~~ Mearley
- ✓ City 1/6/76 NY 2sh Gautier not Ganther
- ✓ City 8/4/75 NY 8sh G. Brewerton

✓ N.C. 5/10/80 #50 J. Green, jr not J. Green

✓ Penna 4/3/72 18d Joseph Sims, Jr not Joseph Sims

✓ 3/10/73 16sh Kepple not Kepple

✓ 10/1/73 208d Tod not Todd

✓ 10/25/75 4d Adam Grabb

✓ 6/1/80 #4 Is this Gathier or Cather

✓ S.C. 1777 #4 B. Weston

✓ SC 4/10/78 2/6 Crouch not ~~Couch~~

✓ SC 4/8/79 ^{#40}_{#50} Edward Trescot not Trescott

1776 NY E. Bancker, Jr definite

✓ Send Am Phil Soc to bassee
paper

Needs choice
5/20/1777 Cont 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 30

\$20 Cont 1775

Yorktown \$5, 6, 20, 30

Early N. J.

JOSEPH R. LASSER

63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

9/13/73

Dear Eric -

Just a note to
say how much I enjoyed
Sunday morning. It
was such a pleasure,
finally meeting and
chatting with you.

I look forward to
visiting with you again--
hopefully in the near future.
Best regards - Joe Lasser

P.S. Just found the xeroxes of two more
bills of Indictment this North Carolinian
From the desk of, JOSEPH R. LASSER -
has. They aren't ^(the originals) for sale, but I asked
for copies because I thought ¹⁵ they might be of interest ^{9/24/73}
to you

Dear Eric -

Am sending the Bill
of Indictment and 1754
counterfeit under separate
covers. The owner would
like to exchange it for
two pieces of the ^{North} Carolina series
issues he doesn't have -
in "reasonable condition". I
received your monograph -

Thank you so much -

Cordially, Joe Lasser

SHUFRO, ROSE & EHRMAN

63 WALL STREET, NEW YORK 10005

344-7760

Rich. Henderson

TWENTY DOLLARS.



Continental Currency.

Twenty DOLLARS.

Printed by HALL and SELLERS,
in Philadelphia. 1775.

From the desk of JOSEPH R. LASSER

9/25/73

Dear Eric -

Forgot to tell
you in our phone
conversation that one
of the signatures on the
Bill of Indictment (William
Hoopes) was a signer of
the Declaration of Independence.

SHUFRO, ROSE & EHRMAN

63 WALL STREET, NEW YORK 10005

344-7760

Best - Joe Lasser

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 2, 1973

Mr. Joseph Lasser
Shufro, Rose & Ehrman
63 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Joe:

I enclosed an \$8 Continental 5/20/77 #79006 which is choice, and which was one you listed as needing. This is for the stamp you were nice enough to obtain for me. If you prefer, I would send in its place a \$20 Continental 5/10/73, which is broken through the middle fold (as most are). I want you to be satisfied and, if you are not, please don't be bashful.

The 1758 Virginia counterfeit on the indictment is something I would like to own, and what your source wants is very rough. There are certain problems. The indictment is apparently "liberated" from the Virginia County records without permission, and whether one gets any title to the item is questionable.

I am enclosing a 10 Shilling, 1783 North Carolina #430 which I can trade for it. The party might think this note is too poor in condition, but this issue is a very rare bird. Besides, this note is genuine and his is counterfeit. It was once patched with colonial sealing wax after being wrecked in circulation. The issue was redeemed at full value. Try it out on him, using the above data.

Thank you so much for thinking of me to help me make this exchange.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 17, 1973

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
63 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Joe:

In order to make you happy, I am enclosing \$7 note of May 20, 1777, in uncirculated condition with cancellation. These cancellations are very unusual.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

JOSEPH R. LASSER
63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

October 18, 1973

Mr. Eric Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis
Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

I am making further progress in the matter of the Continental Congress signatures although I am having difficulty in arranging serial loans of the necessary journals of the Continental Congress.

I have chatted with our North Carolina friend concerning the Bill of Indictment, and he would accept the 1783 note plus a reasonably good example of a 1775 note in exchange for his Bill of Indictment and the attached counterfeit. He points out, and, I think, properly, that the counterfeit, as far as we know, is unique and therefore quite a valuable piece in its own right. He says, in effect, that he would like to exchange two pieces of numismatica for two equally valuable pieces of numismatica.

As far as my own trade is concerned, I think we should determine approximate equivalent values for the items under discussion and, thus, create an appropriate basis for our exchange. As you know, I acquired the stamp you wished to obtain from a friend who is a relatively prominent collector of American stamps dated prior to 1920. He also collects stamps on cover and has branched out into letters, signatures, etc. This is where my association with him has been quite extensive. I have been able to add to my paper money holdings through items originally offered to him, and he has been able to add to his stamps on cover collection through items shown to me.

The stamp sent to you was acquired at a very obviously courtesy price of \$125.00. Its market value, I am told, is approximately \$400.00. As a consequence,

Mr. Eric Newman

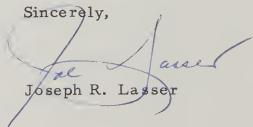
October 18, 1973

the May 20, 1977, piece that you sent me does not seem to be a fair trade. It clearly does not have a \$400.00 market value. To my mind, a fair trade would be the May 20, 1977, note plus a good \$20 Franklin -- because these two notes could conceivably be worth on the order of \$300/350.

Because I value our association and will, no doubt, continue to wish to work with you on research in the Colonial currency field in the future, I do not wish to make the above comments a source of abrasion between us, but I think, in all fairness, the disparities in the situation should be pointed out to you -- quite likely because in recent years you have not had to be as sensitive to prices of less rare items in the field. Your collection undoubtedly is so extensive that your only interest now is in the extraordinarily scarce materials.

Please let us come to a cordial agreement. I value very highly my contact with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Lasser", is written over a circular blue ink stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joseph R. Lasser

JRL/ljg

JOSEPH R. LASSER
63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

October 29, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Enclosed find the cancelled \$7 May 20, 1777, note. I probably was not explicit in describing the denominations in my collection of the 5/20/77 series. Unfortunately, I already have a \$7 note of this issue and, therefore, have no interest in a cancelled note. Tangentially I found the signatures on the note of interest. I have not been able to find authorizations for either Bain or Sweny in the Journals of the Continental Congress.

My research in the Journals of the Continental Congress indicates that the problems faced by this body in 1777, which required moving the Continental Congress to Lancaster, Yorktown and Baltimore during the year, apparently caused upset in the normal currency authorization and signing procedures. I think if you will check your own records, that you will find more "unauthorized" signers than for any other year.

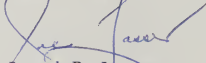
I have done a little struggling with the papers of the Continental Congress but found the indexing and identification of papers so weak that I have not been able to obtain any new information. To the present time I have narrowed my questionable identification of members of the Continental Congress down to 15 names, and I will try to complete the remainder as promptly as possible, recognizing that there is a time element involved. Undoubtedly, you will wish to recheck and verify my findings. Therefore, I would like to afford you the greatest period of time possible.

Mr. Eric Newman

October 29, 1973

Of course, I will cooperate in every way possible to speed up the verification process and will be pleased to clarify any "fuzzy" areas that you may encounter in my work.

Best regards,



Joseph R. Lasser

JRL/ljg

JOSEPH R. LASSER
119 CUSHMAN ROAD
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583

manuscript
11/2/73

10/30/73

Dear Eric -

My secretary is ill today;
so please bear with my scrawl.
Enclosed is the xerox of the
CC signers with the dates of
their authorizations to sign. I
assume that each authorization
applied to the immediately preceding
CC issue.

No I think without dissent ^{by hand or} forwarded ~~it~~
Palmer signed 2/17/76, 5/9/76,

I also have panned in the
spellings of the signers' names as
set forth in the authorizations,
and have stricken out the incorrect
spellings of the names where

I can find support for what reasonably is determinable as the proper spelling -- In most cases, this determinant has been the signature on a bill. Where I don't have a bill with the questionable^{ed} signature or I have not seen one in another numismatist's collection, I have left both spellings; so that you can make the best judgment.

You also will see some check marks. These are signers whose signatures I have found on CC but where I have not found authorizations.

Hope the material is useful.

There's more to come.

P.S. There are also two instances where I have been able to supply first names. Tex

Best Regards
Joe Lane

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 7, 1973

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
63 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Joe:

While you were enjoying the islands I tried to find a solution to the exchange for the North Carolina gentleman. I am enclosing a photocopy of a 40 shilling 1785 piece in crisp condition. I believe this is more than equal in value to the Virginia piece and its document.

If your friend wants the 1783 piece also, he can send me something of equivalent value, even if I already have it. I am sure your friend will be delighted with the opportunity I am presenting to him and suggest that you submit it to him.

Other matters will be taken up shortly. I hope you had a great trip.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 7, 1974

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
63 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Joe:

I am enclosing the 40 shilling North Carolina 1785 bill No. 1087. I am sure your North Carolina friend will be delighted with it.

For the open matter between ourselves, I am enclosing a L20 Note of Continental currency dated May 10, 1775, No. 3361 in two halves, but mended, and otherwise very fine. I consider this note and the one you previously got far in excess of value of the stamp which you obtained from me, but I want you to be happy, and if you give me some good investment advice or something else, I can recover the deficiency with extreme promptness.

I had a lovely trip to England and enjoyed the holidays there.

I have your recent research but have not had a chance to go over it as yet. I am looking forward to our next telephone chat.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman



North Carolina

SS

Salisbury District

At a Superior Court of Justice held at Salisbury for the District of Salisbury on the Twanty Second day of September in the third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the faith and so forth According to the form of the Act of Assembly in Such Cases made and provided, before Maurice Moore Esquire Associate Judge of said Court

The Jurors for our lord the King upon their Oath present that James Ward late of the Parish of Saint of Luke in the County of Rowan Labourer, being a person of Evil Name, fame, and Dishonest Conversation and Devising and Intending one George Admire, unjustly and injuriously to Deceive and Defraud on the Seventeenth day of September in the third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and Defender of the faith, and so forth, at the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid one piece of Printed Paper Counterfeited to the Likeness and Similitude of a Bill of the current money of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia of the Denomination of Three Pounds, To wit, of the value of Forty Eight Shillings Lawful money of Great Britain, Unlawfully Fraudulently and Deceitfully did utter and pass to the said George Admire for and as a good and True Bill of the Denomination and Value of Three Pounds Current money of the Colony of Virginia aforesaid, To wit, of the value of Forty Eight Shillings Lawful Money of Great Britain as aforesaid, He the said James Ward then and there and there well knowing the said Bill so as aforesaid by him so uttered and Passed to have been false and counterfeit to the Great Damage and deceit of him the said George Admire and against the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King his Crown and Dignity

Rich'd. Henderson

Atty. Dom Regio

True Bill signed by Nath'l. Almond (?)

North Carolina SS
Salisbury District

At a Superior Court of Justice held at Salisbury
for the District of Salisbury on the Twenty Second day of
September in the third year of the Reign of Our Sovereign
Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain
France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth
According to the form of the Act of Assembly in such Cases
made and provided, before Maurice Moore Esquire Associate
Judge of said Court

The Jurors for our Lord the King upon their Oath present That
James Ward late of the Parish of Saint of Luke in the County of Rowan
Labourer, being a person of Evil Name, fame, and Dishonest Conversation
and Devising and Intending one George Admire, unjustly and Injuriouly
to Deceive and Defraud on the seventeenth day of September in the third
year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third ~~the~~ by the grace of
God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and Defender of the Faith,
and so forth, at the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid one piece of
Printed Paper Counterfeited to the likeness and similitude of a Bill of the
Current money of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia of the Denomination
of Three Pounds, To wit, of the value of Forty eight shillings lawful money of
Great Britain, Unlawfully Fraudulently and Deceitfully did utter and pass
to the said George Admire for and as a good and true Bill of the Denomination
of and Value of Three Pounds Current money of the Colony of Virginia
aforesaid, to wit, of the value of Forty eight shillings lawful Money
of Great Britain as aforesaid, He the said James Ward then and there
and there well knowing the said Bill so as aforesaid by him so uttered
and Passed to have been false and Counterfeit to the Great Damage
and deceit of him the said George Admire and against the Peace of
our Sovereign Lord the King his Crown and Dignity

Rich'd Henderson Atty Dom Regis

'me Bill signed by Nathl Almond (?)

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 29, 1974

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Shufro, Rose & Ehrman
63 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Joe:

I am enclosing photocopies of my old detail as to signatures. The check marks following the names of signers indicate they were in a collection and the "OK" indicates they were seen. There are mistakes galore.

My suggestion is that we should definitely tie the signatures into the issues by placing a code of the issues under the signature. The code must be short because several designations must be listed under a signature in some instances. We have a choice of M75, N75, F76, etc. We could leave a space in between the letter and the year or put a dash in between. We could write May 75, Nov 75, Feb 76, etc., if there is room. I would appreciate your thoughts. This will give your card index a great workout.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encls.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 26, 1974

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Shufro, Rose & Ehrman
63 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Joe:

It was a delight to have you visit even though things were hectic to say the least. I believe we accomplished much and made working together a mutually beneficial project. I am enclosing a copy of the Goodspeed invoice which you may pay directly to them. The book is a bargain as you will find it contains an original piece of Rhode Island currency. It is on its way to you.

On the Sunday when you left we not only went up the Arch, saw two movies, visited the river boats, went to a hamburger joint and a Dairy Queen and then to the Ice Capades, but did not miss getting ice cream all over the car, french fried potatoes in my pockets, etc.

Come back again any time and keep pouring in the information. I promise no more snow in the summertime.

Cordially,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

Goodspeed's

BOOK SHOP, INC.



Anything that's a book

Boston MASSACHUSETTS

18 BEACON STREET

No. 011947

SOLD
TO

DATE 3/18/74

SHIP TO

• Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
Post Office Box 14020
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

TERMS: NET, NO CASH DISCOUNT

HOW RECEIVED		ENCLOSURE	DATE	SHIPPED VIA		DEPT.
MAIL/BB:eo				PARCEL		3
CAT. NO.	ITEM					PRICE
		Potter, Elisha R., and Rider, Sidney S. Some Account of the Bills of Credit...of Rhode Island.... Providence, 1880. The Rhode Island Historical Tracts, No. 8.				10 00
		Delivery . . .				26
						10 26

*Take paid
by Joe Lasser*

RECEIPTED BILL WILL BE RETURNED UPON REQUEST

JOSEPH R. LASSER
63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

4/1/74

Dear Eric -

Read through the R.I.
fact last weekend. Found
it most helpful for perspective.
Was the author entirely accurate,
or did he believe some historical
tales then current?

Spent Saturday at the
N.Y. Pub. Library and have two
more Continental signers 5/20/77
for you. They are on a
handsome sheet of 8 mounted
in Emmet Vol IV.
Best Regards - Joe

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 9, 1974

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Shufro, Rose & Ehrman
63 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Joe:

Thank you for the black light for which check is enclosed.

I cannot find the broad side in which you indicate two fictitious names (J. Duncan and R. Davis) are used on counterfeits. I have two such broad sides and neither has what you reported. Can you get me a photocopy of what you found?

I am enclosing an item of interest.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encls.

From the desk of JOSEPH R. LASSER

4/16/74

Dear Eric -

Here are photos of
the M. Hahn / J. Houston bills on
a sheet in the Emmet Collection,
plus an R. Smith photo 5/20/77
and an R. Smith xerox 2/26/77.
Are they the same R. Smith?
Lastly, is the xerox of the Yes, I think so
4/21/77 Journals of C.C. authorization
to Hillegas to appoint and
qualify C.C. signers after the
date

Best Regards -
Joe

SHUFRO, ROSE & EHRMAN

63 WALL STREET, NEW YORK 10005

344-7760

From the desk of JOSEPH R. LASSER

4/24/74

Dear Eric -

The non-existent
signers are named
in the 3rd ID from
the bottom.

Best Regards,
Joe

Notes from Joshua Cohen

Collection - Greenfield Village, Mich
New Signers Continental Currency May 1974

W. Coale 2/17/76 ✓

J. Short 5/20/77 ✓

I. Paisley 5/20/77 ✓

F. Wade 5/20/77 ✓

M. Cather 9/26/78

on a ctf - Rejected

All the Virginia Notes signed B. Pasteur ✓
should be Blonet Pasteur - see photo

S.C. March 6, 76

Elias Horry Jr

- add Jr ✓

S.C. 10/19/76

Benjamin Elliott

not Elliott ✓

Maryland Oct 1, 1748

add J. Bullen to signers ✓
of issue - see 2nd signature bottom
note p. 112

New Jersey

12/31/63

4/16/64

Richard Smith

signed Rich^d Smith

- there, apparently is no Richard C
middle initial as indicated
in Early Paper Money^{Nd.} 4/16/64 p. 188

The North Carolina 12/29/85

Ssh has a Ships & Lighthouse Vignette ✓

- an example sold at the Pine Tree Auction
in New York City May, 1974

(over)

I am convinced that the J. Barney signatures on CC

N-76-

F-77

M-77

F ~~76~~ 76

✓ is Joshua Barney; not John Barney

Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography has a picture and facsimile signature of Joshua Barney Vol. I, p. 172

I know that the resolution of 2/12/77 says John Barney in the Journals of the Continental Congress, but the Journals have proven to be consistently incorrect in first names and the spelling of surnames. Captain Barney had a distinctive signature in that he almost omitted the S in Joshua, sliding his pen up to the top of the h and the y in Barney always had the loop of the y to the outside of the downstroke rather than the usual inside and then upswing across the downstroke

Joshua Barney $\leftarrow$ ~~not Joshua Barney~~

You will find few notes signed with his first name, Joshua, but all the J. Barney notes have the completely distinctive outside loop to the y.

Joshua Barney born Balt Md 7/6/59 - died
12/1/1818. Masters mate on the "Hornet", Commanded
several prize ships. Brought Franklin's peace dispatches
back to U.S 1782 etc

10/11 | 1787 Requisition.
Moore Furman
Md 1740 issue
NC 45h

original size
" "
" "
" "

Wibing
Summer
DH.
May, 18, 1974

cf #100 - CC
Illustrate #500 =

Dear Eric,

You are about to see why I haven't typed a letter to you in the past. My typing is abominable.

The enclosed photos represent most of my findings at Greenfield Village earlier this month. I have noted on the backs of each photo the appropriate explanation of why the photo was taken. Needless to say, the Continental Tax Requisition note of October 11, 1797 and the "Counterfeit" Continental of 1780 are the most fascinating items to me.

Both the Emmet and Cohen collections consider the 1780 note to be counterfeit, but my inspection of these notes leads me to another possible answer: Are they proofs of an issue that was under consideration but never officially authorized? The notes are typeset, on good quality, but not mica, paper. The reverse, as you see, has much simpler engraving treatment than the Continental Issues, but it is still a professional job. I regret that I was not able to photograph the full reverse. It is pasted in the album. Fundamentally, I am not satisfied with the counterfeit theory because it would seem totally foolish to produce a counterfeit that in no way was similar to a genuine issue. Possibly the R. Lenmore and G. Boyd signatures could provide some sort of a lead, but I've had no success along this line of thought thus far.

I failed to take a picture of one additional signature, that of Thomas Ropers, which appeared on two Charleston, 1786 10 shilling notes. The number on one note was illegible and the other was #112.

The photos are in three groups; each one is a separate roll of film. If they are kept in their present order, I'll be able to find their comparable negatives in a hurry, so that if you want any of the negatives for use in the forthcoming edition, I'll be able to produce them for you with a minimum of effort.

Bill Distin, the Assistant to the President of Greenfield Village was most pleasant and cordial, plus being extremely cooperative. He was kind enough to break up his day to take Ruth and me to lunch -- and he even invited his wife, Helen, to lunch so that the two wives could carry on a "female" conversation while he and I chatted about the Cohen Collection. As a gesture,

I left a handwritten , Hudson Valley, New York promissory note dated March 19, 1776 to add to the Village's holdings. It seemed only right in view of Distin's cooperation.

You have intrigued me sufficiently with counterfeits -- as Dick Picker also has, that I have "lines out" so that interesting ^{7 items} will be shown to me. Last week I picked up an indictment of a William Stafford , Salisbury District of North Carolina for counterfeiting a B 2 1771 North Carolina note, specifically setting forth the counterfeit as #4290. You do not list this denomination among the December, 1771 counterfeits, so I guess none have turned up. I don't know what should be done about including this data in the group of "known" counterfeits.

Sometimes altered

Only one more item before I close. I am well aware that I did not complete the job at Greenfield Village. I have not gone through the Cohen Collection material for Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania, I just didn't have the time, however, I will try to get out there within the next two months and finish it properly.

Best Regards -- Have fun, and Best to
the family,



From the desk of JOSEPH R. LASSER

5/23/74

Dear Eric -

Here are two polaroids
of a note in the Hammer
Rooke 5/28/74 Auction. The
Machilwien signature, in red,
does not reproduce clearly;
so I've tried to ^{reproduce} do it
and my Xerox looks quite
good. My former guess
doesn't seem right.

SHUFRO, ROSE & EHRMAN

63 WALL STREET, NEW YORK 10005

344-7760

(over)

I inspect the polaroids
carefully and I think
you will agree that it
is J.S. Machilwien and
Joseph Armitage.

I've picked up a CC
5/20/77 note with
signatures W. Coale and
J. Hopkinson; not T. Hopkinson

as you have apparently
thought in Early Paper
Money - Best Regards

P.S. Will xerox 5/20/77 ^{note} shortly

JOSEPH R. LASSER
63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

May 29, 1974

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

I received your note of 5/23 this morning, and I am able to confirm that additional research indicates the following in the North Carolina Colonial Papers & Records, Volume 10, pg. 533-534, Monday April 22, 1776, "Resolved that Colonel William Haywood (misspelled), Mr. John Webb, Mr. William Williams and Mr. David Sumner be commissioners for the purpose of signing the bills of credit". This data, of course, confirms your finding that the 4/2/76 North Carolina issue was signed by David Sumner. ✓

In addition, Volume XVII - pg. 415-416 Wednesday, December 28, 1785, "Voted Griffith Rutherford and James Gillispie, Esquire superintendents of the press for printing the paper currency and John Hunt and Absalom Tatom signers" -- I'm quite happy with this clarification because I was not satisfied with the attribution of a Sanborn as you listed. Enclosed find an enlarged photograph which shows the signature quite clearly -- now that I know the name. ✓

Concerning the New Hampshire 4/3/42 note re-dated 1744, I would tend to say L although I would not stake my life on it. ✓

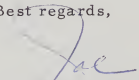
The Harmer Rooke sale last night was absolutely amazing. Enormous premiums are being paid for quality without knowledge or regard for rarity. As an example, a Maryland 1/1/1767 2/3\$ unc. sold for \$180. By contrast, an \$8 of the same series very fine back mended sold for \$21. Even more interesting, I was able to buy a Pennsylvania 3/1/69 1-1/2 pound note f/ef at \$140.

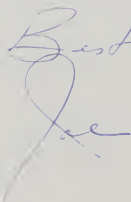
Mr. Eric P. Newman

May 29, 1974

Don't ask me what's happening. From a rational viewpoint, it seems to me obviously a case of speculative fever.

Best regards,


Joseph R. Lasser

P.S. I will send the negatives
to you as soon as I receive
them from the photo shop again.
I had some enlargements
on order. Best Again


JOSEPH R. LASSER
63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

June 5, 1974

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Enclosed find two Harmer Rooke catalogs as promised last week. You will also find two Polaroids:

✓ Maryland 6/28/80 \$5 - T. John Low, Jr., a signature not recorded on page 120.

✓ Virginia 3/1/81 \$1,000 T. Webb (last signature not B. Webb). p. 344

✓ I also have just seen C. C. \$6 7/22/76 No. 12614 signed -- very clearly, J. Saltar, not J. Salter as set forth on page 45. A Polaroid or xerox was not available, but I am certain that Saltar is correct.

Nothing more at the moment.

Best regards,





IN FLIGHT

LA - N.Y

6/28/74

Dear Eric -

This letter should be titled "The Best Laid Plans etc". My pictures from the second Greenfield Village visit are not usable. For some unknown reason, the shutter on my Nikon did not synchronize properly with the flash attachment; nor did it open properly. I have, however, arranged to get some prints of the portions of the film that have adequate

USA EUROPE AFRICA ASIA

exposure - - and these will give you the proper dimensions of the bills, which when combined with my first pictures, may provide you with the photos you need.

I will go back to the New York Public Library and reproduce the 1780 Continental Counterfeit so that you will have a satisfactory representation of it for the volume.

The enclosed xerox of my notes on the New York, private and City issues plus additional signature data on various Pennsylvania issues largely are



IN FLIGHT

(2)

confirmable from the truncated
photos I took at Greenfield.
I'll have the photos and the film
in hand the week of July 9th.
When I mail the photos to you,
I'll also send the three sets
of negatives from my first
Greenfield visit (with proper ident-
ification) so that you'll have
all the material in hand that
I can give you.

The 5/20/77 counterfeit shown
in the polaroid, clearly is
indicated in the misspelling "A HSTINE"
The New Haven City item is in

USA EUROPE AFRICA ASIA

a small collection I recently
had the privilege of looking at.
(Mostly Western Resem that Soc)

I'll be in touch with
you again shortly.

Best Regards -

/cc

✓ 1760 - ^{Each} Flower not Flower ✓ ~~Sherriff Museum~~
from
Hasser
1974

✓ June 18, 1764 - Brooker, Jr. ✓

March 20, 1771 Robert Strettell Jones ✓

See the photo. - The name is
Benezet even tho' the Journals of
the C.C. consistently say Benezet ✓
July 20, 1775 John Benezet not Benezet ✓

April 10, 1777 HENRY LEUTHAUSER NOT LUITHASEN

April 10, 1777 I. YOUNG, Jr. not John Young, Jr.

April 20, 1781 - JACOB BARGE, NOT BORGE ✓
D. ~~SCHAF~~ SCHAEFFER NOT SHAFFER ✓

March 16, ¹⁷⁸⁵~~1775~~ - J. Shortworth ✓
" " J. Longhead ✓

JOSEPH R. LASSER
63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

August 15, 1974

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

While you, Dick and the rest of the ANA are enjoying your party, I'm struggling in New York with a sick economy and stock market. Only your recent kindness and the diversion provided by numismania lighten the day. Thanks ever so much for the Pennsylvania 2s6d piece. You are so kind, and I am so pleased.

The Vlack material comes from the Biographical Directory of the American Congress. He has undertaken what I consider to be a "first cut" and has left a portion of the difficult investigatory process to you. For my own purposes, I have covered the same ground as Vlack but have gone further -- and have answers to almost all of the questions, but now I am caught on the horns of a dilemma.

I had hoped, some time in the reasonably near future, to assemble a relatively extensive series of vignettes in book form of Continental and Colonial currency signers. Apparently, Bob Vlack is headed in the same direction. It seems that my library and research have been more extensive than Vlack's and I, therefore, am reluctant to "open the door to all comers". You, undoubtedly, have wrestled with the same problem, so I would like to hear from you what you would recommend as an appropriate course of action. I certainly need some guidance.

I'll try to get a picture of the R.I. ^(note) from the people at Worcester if at all possible. Possibly there will be a few free moments today so that I will be able to call them and try to make the arrangements.

Mr. Eric P. Newman

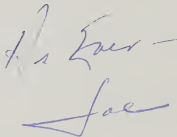
August 15, 1974

I'm going up to the Connecticut Historical Society tomorrow and should have some additional data for you upon my return. Once again, thanks for the Pennsylvania note.

Cordially,



P.S. I was amazed at the orderliness of my filing methods when I undertook to answer the Vlack questions. It took only 10-15 minutes. I must be doing something right.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 21, 1974

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
63 Wall Street
New York, N. Y. 10005

Dear Joe:

My advice to you with respect to your idea for an extensive series of vignettes with respect to currency signers is to proceed and do it. You must not worry about somebody else trying to do the same thing. Bob Vlack is certainly in no hurry to undertake the project as I see it.

To give you an example of a similar problem I can relate my experience with respect to "As Phony As a \$3 Bill" after I submitted it to The Numismatist and they were trying to determine when to publish it. I told Gene Hessler that I was not using his picture of the back of the \$3 United States note and that I had been furnished both the face and back by the government. He promptly went to the government to get the picture and wrote his article up without advising me until five days ago that it was going to be published in COINAGE. He found out when it was going to be published in The Numismatist and told me he had arranged for it to be published in COINAGE the next month. I haven't seen his article but with a less decent person it might have been published before my article. As a general precautionary matter I had pressed The Numismatist to publish my article much earlier than they otherwise would have. I told them if they wanted to come in second, a delay was the best way I knew of doing it. I never dreamed how right I was.

Nevertheless, don't rush through an item just to get it published.

Thanks for your continual letters and I hope you can soon furnish the Continental signers list with those authorized or actually signing, or both.

There is a problem as to how to list the signers and show authorizations and actual signing. There could be an authorization of several dates and signing evidence of a portion of those. Think of some method of distinguishing the signals for "authorized to sign" - "actually signed". Perhaps a single asterisk (*) for actually signing, an asterisk and a number sign (*#) for authorized and signed, and a number sign only (#) for signed without formal authorization. Each date would have to be followed by those signals. How does that strike you?

Kindest regards,

EPN/ath

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

JOSEPH R. LASSER
63 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

August 27, 1974

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

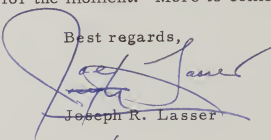
Enclosed find photos of the notes I saw at the Bank of New York. The 5/20/77 C. C. note clearly shows the name is Calister, not McAlister. All of the notes are exact size. I hope you can use the photos.

I should be getting photos resulting from my Connecticut Historical Society visit relatively shortly and will forward them to you as soon as I have them in hand. It was great chatting with you yesterday and telling you about the North Carolina notes, however, I was in error concerning the denomination of the May 28, 1757 resolution note. It is a five pound bill, not a one pound bill.

I also probably have failed to tell you that I have seen a North Carolina April 4, 1748 six shilling piece which carries a fleur de lis vignette. The two shilling six pence note of the same series carries a crown with a rose.

I guess that is all for the moment. More to come.

Best regards,


Joseph R. Lasser

P. S. The enclosed photos of the May 28, 1757 issue just came in, and here they are for your delectation. Inspection of the notes indicates that the type is quite different. The badly printed note employs italics for Proclamation Money

Mr. Eric Newman

August 27, 1974

✓ and on line 2 uses per Centum rather than per Cent. In line 5 Public Treasury is printed normally on one bill and in italics on the other. The word Assembly on line 6 is in full capitals in one and in shortened capitals on the 2nd bill. I hope that I can get permission from the attorneys to repair the bills so that we can get better pictures -- but at the moment it is a wrestling match. I have not been able to determine why the signature Richard Taylor N.J. is penned on the better note.

Best
Regards -
Joe

From the desk of JOSEPH R. LASSER

Dear Eric -

The mystery
deepens. Mrs. Bungardner,
the AAS Librarian can
be relied upon. There
is nothing on the back of
the R.I. Note -- but is
it because the note is
a low denomination?

SHUFRO, ROSE & EHRMAN

63 WALL STREET, NEW YORK 10005

344-7760

Best - Joe

P.S. I paid the
AAS reprod. fee

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 7, 1974

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Shufro, Rose & Ehrman
63 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005

Dear Joe:

The Bank of New York summary is excellent and will straighten out many of the matters which presented themselves. There is one thing I must ask you to explain. You state that Paper Notes were issued in 1786 and were authorized by an act of the New York Legislature on April 18, 1786. It so happens that the New York Legislature authorized paper money on April 18, 1786, and I am wondering if there is a separate act relating to the Bank of New York. I am afraid there might be some confusion. The New York laws of 1786 may be much handier to you or a lawyer friend than they are to me, but I think this should be checked as it is very important. If the source of your data indicates that the issue is in conformity to the law of April 18, 1786, it is merely indicating that the denominations are on the same basis as the New York issues rather than that the bank's issues were authorized by the New York legislature. Perhaps the exact language which is in the bank's records would clear this up. Would your friend at the bank get the exact language so that we can clear this up as I very much doubt there would be any legislative authorization for the bank's issues.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Feb 17, 1776 Issue.

Thurs Feb 17. N.

Richard Cromwell # $\frac{2}{3}$

W Coale # $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{1}{2}$

P Stutch #8, 7

Geo Douglass #8, 7

Jos Redman # $\frac{1}{6}$

B. Brannon # $\frac{1}{3}$, 7

Sam Morris #3, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1

W Masters #3, $\frac{1}{3}$

Jas Calhoun \$5

B. Levy \$5

Jas Walker \$5

Hor Johnson \$5

S Hilegas \$1

M Lewis 5, $\frac{1}{3}$

T Morris 5

Barnes $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ 4

Lech $\frac{2}{3}$, 1

J Barney $\frac{2}{3}$

D Clymer $\frac{2}{3}$, 1

S Sellers et al $\frac{1}{3}$, 7

Barker, \$1

Evans $\frac{1}{6}$, 1

Coats 2, 3

Williams 2, 3

Geo Gray 4

Wm Sellers 4

J Sellers $\frac{2}{3}$

J Howard, 1, 3

Campbell 1

R Johnson 6

J Shaw Jr 6

Mease 8

Purman 8

B Jacobs $\frac{1}{2}$, 3

Whelen 3

Courtenay $\frac{1}{6}$

Carroll $\frac{1}{6}$

~~Hastings $\frac{1}{6}$~~

Taylor $\frac{1}{3}$

Kilso $\frac{1}{2}$

Hannon $\frac{2}{3}$

Ash $\frac{2}{3}$

S.C. Morris $\frac{1}{2}$

S Massey $\frac{1}{2}$

Coombe 2

Howell 1

Roberts 1

Tuckness 2

Suffitt 3

Kuhl 4

J B Smith 4

Shee 4

Hazelhurst 4

Meligan 6

Talghman 6

Tybout 8

James 8

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 14, 1975

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

Dear Joe:

It is a pleasure to include in the bibliography for Continental Currency the article published in the May Numismatist. I forget the name of the author, but he must have labored hard and long on the detail and he must have enjoyed it. Welcome home.

I have been too involved to write or call you, but will catch up in due course. I just wanted to get in my congratulations on your literary numismatics.

I have mounds to tell you, but you must have much more to tell me.

My very best,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

P.S. How did Joseph Wilson sign his name? J Wilson or Jos. Wilson, or both?

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 8, 1975

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

Dear Joe:

I feel that I must tell you that your New York note of November 1, 1709 for 11 ounces, Number 679, is from the New York Historical Society collection according to my records.

Your New York note dated July 20, 1711 for 40 shillings, Number 1664, is also from the New York Historical Society collection according to my records. Did they sell these notes?

I will give you further detail if you wish.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Tasser

7/9/75

Dear Eric -

I haven't written in response to your letter of the 29th until today because there have been too many loose ends here and I've deferred this note until I've been able to sit down and think about a whole string of matters

Here goes; the easiest items will come first

- ① Joseph Jones or Tom Jones
- No one ~~has~~ ^{with} the surname of Jones was authorized by the CC according to my records except Robert Strotell Jones..
- my data indicate that you have a 9/26/78 ^{#40} counterfeit with the signature S. Jones and
 - Phil Keller has an engraved British Counterfeit 4/11/78 ^{#40} #6134 with the signature T. Jones;
 - so I can't ~~I~~ even fill in the source of Joseph Jones

② I saw the Yorktown ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ #6 Lemen & Bryson note at New Netherlands and am

clearly in accord with your conclusion on Lewis. I favor Bryson over Mahon on the second signature although it could be either. To date I have Bryson on both 5/20/77 and 4/11/78 and Mahon only on 5/20/77; so I'm reluctant to choose Mahon.

(c) I agree that it is Jonathan Williams owing to the Lno although I haven't written to you about it.

(d) New Netherlands has a 9/26/78 #40 150182 which is signed Lno Graff. — We have been using John; not Jonathan. This note makes it appear that it should be Jonathan although the CC authorization 5/29/79 was John Graff Jr.

(e) Over some period of time in the future, I would like to try to obtain sample

signatures of all CC signers,
 but there are lots of things
 I must do first -- starting
 with getting all my signature
 35mm negatives reprinted; so
 that I can really do a
 proper job. Your xeroxes and
 those of other collectors who
 have been similarly kind, are
 filed properly now, but at
 some stage, I'll have to
 go thro my index of ^{CC} notes
 and ~~make~~ make requests of
 your good self and others
 for xeroxes of the signatures
~~There~~ are the notes I have
 used to compile ^{over all} my index ^{of}
 So don't start any work
 yet. I'll let you know
 when I, hopefully, we'll
 need assistance.

(f) The Pine Tree Catalogue
 will be ready shortly.
 I'm dying to know
 exactly what material
 Dick is selling. It should
 be spectacular in spots.

Will chat with you so
that we can cooperate
on our interests if
possible.

- ⑨ Lastly, I'm ~~at~~ ^{at} ease
concerning my proposal
in my preceding letter
to exchange the N.C. [#]1/16
Cornucopia for a Hopkinson
~~and~~ ^{plus} a Peyton Randolph. I
know that the Cornucopia
is much rarer than the
Hopkinson, but a good
Hopkinson sells or might
sell for nearly as much
as the Cornucopia. The Peyton
Randolph ~~signature~~ is on
too rare or valuable a group
of issues for you to include
it in this trade. I erred
in my original ~~thought~~ ^{thinking}.
I believed that he had signed
issues of the late 1770's,
but my signature index
shows that he signed
nothing after the Ashby Town
of 1773; so please let

me withdraw my
request and allow me to
apologize for the error.

- (9) Charles Wamser has asked
me, as a friend, to
help him with some signatures
and the like on the Haffner Ball
collection he'll be selling
later this year. It contains
a surprisingly broad array
of the 4/2/76 North Carolinas
and, of course, has some
excellent Virginias

- (10) Only one last item; if
you have a duplicate,
duplicate etc. Maryland 7/26/75
^{subtable} for a type piece, I'd
like to trade for it. I'd
like to use it at the
Federal Hall exhibition.

Happy New Year —
The Very Best —
Joe

From the desk of JOSEPH R. LASSER

9/26/75

Dear Eric -

Here are the
notes as promised -

Best -

Joe

JOSEPH R. LASSER
119 CUSHMAN ROAD
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583

10/1/75

Dear Eric -

What can I say?

You are extraordinary!!!

Joe

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 1, 1975

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

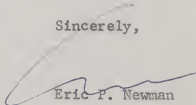
Dear Joe:

You are such a nice guy I am enclosing a E3 Virginia 1773 #62/
6165 with the signature of Peyton Randolph.

If you are going to worry about its value being too far beyond
the N.C. \$1/16, then you get ulcers instead of me worrying how I can
balance with you.

Please let me have your autograph so I can trade it to someone.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 1, 1975

CERTIFIED MAIL #114228

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

Dear Joe:

For the Exhibition at Federal Hall in New York for the balance of 1975, I am pleased to enclose \$5 New York bill of credit dated March 5, 1776, #454 in uncirculated condition. I understand you will insure it, and I look forward to its return when it has served its purpose. We are glad to be of service.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 7, 1975

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

Dear Joe:

I will be on vacation when the big sale hits. Here are my top limits on my bids at the October 18, 1975 sale. I don't expect to buy anything, but perhaps the enthusiasm will be tempered in the bidding. I hope these don't interfere with you.

Lot

135	NH 1775 40 S	\$ 110.00
171	NJ 1781 6d	115.00
174	NY 1711 E8	1,150.00
225	NC 1748 5s	85.00
226	NC 1748 6s	50.00
227	NC 1748 7s6d	120.00
236	NC 1754 4d	350.00
237	NC 1754 4d	360.00
239	NC 1754 8d	375.00
259	NC 1760 6d	60.00
266	NC 1761 4d	40.00
268	NC 1761 2/6	110.00
333	NC 1703 40 S	125.00
393	PA 1783 \$2	1,550.00

Please bid for me. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

From the desk of JOSEPH R. LASSER

#5439
Miss 12/7/75
3 sh

genuine

Returned
2/2/76

1/28/76

Dear Eric -

Here's the note that

has been offered to me.

The defects, of course, are
the replaced piece on the left
edge (center) and the right
edge tears. But, more important,
is it genuine? Best-Joe

P.S. Note December on back; not Dec
and that FW left leg has no sticking break.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 12, 1976

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

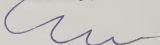
Dear Joe:

Thank you very much for the 40 Shilling Connecticut 1762. It will be used in the book as an illustration. It is returned herewith.

The back of the January 26, 1776 New Hampshire \$5, #758, is on the wrong kind of paper. It is my notion that after the face was printed the paper split. The back might have also been printed and split off. In any event, the new back is pasted on and does not show the same wear or have the same thickness as the face. The bill, in my opinion, is therefore a patched bill and was not officially patched. I do not consider it a printing error.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 11, 1976

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

Dear Joe:

Again, many thanks for the books on printing. They are so full of information, I have to sip them and not drink them.

I have added Mr. McHenry again - poor guy, he has had a rough time getting recognition. A print of a note he signed would be good to have in my file.

Your article was fun to read. It throws me as to your source of the 12 Continental Currency signers who were alleged to be members of the Continental Congress. Who wrote that? I never set up a paper tigt and knock it down, so please tell me who is the dragon you are attacking? The only listing of members of the Continental Congress I know of is in the Numismatist for March and April, 1962. This was a reprint of an article written by Joseph E. Fields and Harley Freeman for the Spring 1959 publication of Manuscripts entitled "For The Love of Money". In that article they only list 7 signers, one of which you find is erroneous. That does not include the three additional signers which you have located. I have not checked the letter Vlack sent which I believe I sent you a copy of, but it would not be fair to use that as it was never checked or published. Will you return the article to me after you have made appropriate changes. I have made a number of other suggestions which are obvious.

I hope I have been helpful.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encls.

Memo from

JOSEPH R. LASSER

3/16/76

Dear Eric -

Thanks so much
for the criticism and
help. Here are the proposed
changes plus my letter
to Barbara Mueller -

Cordially -

Joe

March 15, 1975
119 Cushman Rd.
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

Dear Barbara,

Please excuse the informality. I'm a miserable typist and so I try to economize in every way in order to hold errors to a minimum --- Now you know the secret. My daughter-in-law typed the manuscript you received last week.

I'm glad that you feel the article is acceptable and I hope it is a small contribution to the literature of the field. Eric Newman has been most cooperative. He already has sent me a proposed series of corrections and I am willing to accept all of them either because the changes improve the readability or the accuracy of the article.

In addition to the suggested changes as set forth on the accompanying xerox, kindly alter the copy in two places -- in order to make it absolutely clear that I do not hold any previous author, dealer or any other numismatist responsible for the errors that have crept into the identification of signatures.

Page 1, Final Paragraph, 1st Sentence should be changed to read--

(A)

"Not surprisingly, there are instances where the numismatic fraternity has erred in identifying the signers of bills and, by repetition, the inaccuracies have become accepted as fact."

et seq

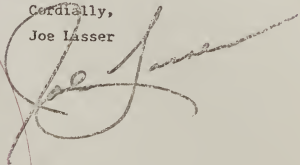
Page 3, First Paragraph, 2nd sentence/should be changed to read --

(B)

"The 'names' of twelve members of the Continental Congress are found on Continental Currency, however, review of authenticated signatures on documents reveals that only nine Delegates actually signed bills. Other uncertainties also are evident. Six signers, or" -- continue, starting on line five.

Once again, in order to speed up the communications process, I am sending a copy of this letter to Eric along with the manuscript he already has corrected, so that you and Eric can consult easily when necessary.

Cordially,
Joe Lasser



Check
Pine Tree Auction
4/28/75
Lot # 61

Members of the Continental Congress
Who Signed Continental Currency
by
Joseph R. Lasser

Part of the charisma of collecting Continental and Colonial currency stems from ^{the written} the signatures on these ~~hand signed~~ bills. Autographs of ^{some} signers of the Declaration of Independence, ^{the} Constitution and other major ^{American} documents are found ^{on the bills,} plus governors, generals, merchants, ministers, farmers, and, of course, many Tories. An extraordinarily wide range of personalities affixed their names to these "bits of history."

It was, however, not until the publication of Early Paper Money of America by Eric ^{P.} Newman in ¹⁹⁶⁷ 1966 that a truly comprehensive view of the scope ^{of the signatures} encompassed by paper money of the colonial period became available, thereby making possible meaningful efforts to identify the host of signers.

^{is here in my book} **A** Not surprisingly, subsequent research has revealed that a number of ^{of signers} formerly accepted identifications are now known to be inaccurate. ^{some} A substantial number of errors stem from the long honored

custom of passing both a given name and a surname from one generation

to another. Most often names are passed from father to son, leading to the use of senior (Sr.) and junior (Jr.), but if a son drops the identification "Jr." upon the death of his father, ^{an} ~~the~~ job of accurate attribution can become a problem for a researcher two hundred years later. The possibility of confusion becomes more pronounced if neither father nor son has used the suffix "Sr." or "Jr." and a more exotic twist is added when identical names are carried by an uncle and nephew or two cousins.

On occasion, a name may skip ~~more than one~~ ^{one or more} generation^s, with a child being named in honor of an ancestor. The inventor, Thomas Edison, bore the name of an ancestral uncle, a minor functionary on the staff of the Continental Congress. By plea and petition, the first Thomas Edison secured the freedom of his imprisoned aged Tory uncle, ^{so that he could} ~~allowing the old man to~~ end his days in peace, and a later ^{of Edison} generation ~~wished to~~ acknowledge^d its gratitude.

Some identification puzzles do not stem from family genealogies. Common surnames such as Smith, the use of amanuenses to sign minor documents, signatures employing only initials rather than full given names and archaic and illegible handwriting are some of the additional obstacles.

In microcosm, the Continental Currency series illustrates the difficulties encountered in numismatic signature identification.

~~It is generally believed that twelve members of the Continental Congress signed Continental Currency. Review of authenticated~~

~~signatures on documents, however, reveals that only nine members~~

~~actually did so. Confusion has occurred because ^{SIX} ~~the~~ signers, or~~

~~purported signers, have the same given name and surname of other~~

~~men of the Revolutionary period and a ^{seventh requires} ~~sixth~~ involves the identifica-~~

~~tion of "Senior" or "Junior." By comparing signatures on documents~~

~~with those on Continental Currency, it has been possible to come to~~

~~the following conclusions:~~

~~CONTINENTAL CURRENCY SIGNERS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE
VALID IDENTIFICATIONS OF CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ~~MEMBERS~~~~

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

JOHN BAYARD

photo #1

photo #2

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 5/10/1775, 11/29/75

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a 7/6/73 letter to Pastor David McClellan

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: Although it was early in our national

history, the Bayard family was widely dispersed by the time of the

American Revolution. The first members of the family came to the

(B)
I think
is
they
published

You
might
say
that
I
definitely
include
that
they
list
any
CL
in
the
list

in the
State +
Colonies
issues

I only
know
the
Tredwell
Treman
article

Colonies with Peter Stuyvesant, who had married Judith Bayard. A century later, there were Bayards in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New York.

John Bayard was born in Bohemia Manor, Maryland, and as a youth settled in Philadelphia. He apparently was a cousin of the Lieutenant-Colonel John Bayard, a Tory New Yorker who joined the British Army. He also was an uncle of James Ashton Bayard, who became a Representative and Senator from Delaware, and great-uncle of James Ashton Bayard, Jr., who also became a Senator from Delaware in 1851.

BIOGRAPHY: (8/11/1738 to 1/7/1807) A member of the Continental Congress 1785-87, John Bayard was a leading merchant of the city of Philadelphia. Early in the Revolution, he joined the Sons of Liberty, and was a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly ~~from~~ 1776-1779 and 1784, serving several terms as Speaker. During the Revolutionary War, Bayard was Colonel of the Second Regiment of Philadelphia Volunteers, participating in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Princeton. He moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1783, and became Mayor of that city in 1790; a few years later he was appointed to his final public office, Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County.

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

GUNNING BEDFORD, JR.

photo #3

photo #4

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 9/26/1778

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a letter 12/17/1804 to his daughter Henrietta.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: Gunning Bedford, Senior, was a cousin of Gunning Bedford, Junior. Bedford, Sr., also was prominent in our early history, as a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1786 and 1787, and Governor of Delaware in 1796.

BIOGRAPHY: (1747-3/30/1812) Member of Continental Congress 1783-1785. A Philadelphian, Gunning Bedford, Jr., graduated from Princeton College in 1771, and shortly thereafter commenced legal practice in Dover, Delaware. During the War, for a short time he was an aide-de-camp to George Washington. He was elected to the Continental Congress in 1783, and was a delegate to the Federal Constitutional Convention in 1787, signing the resulting document. A Presidential Elector in 1789, and again in 1793, he ultimately became the United States Judge for the District of Delaware on 9/26/89, a post which he held until his death.

Signature on
DocumentSignature on
CurrencyDANIEL CARROLL

photo #5

photo #6

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 2/17/1776 fractionals, 11/2/76, 2/26/77DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: letter 12/2/77 relating to war and ship movements.REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: A Marylander, Daniel Carroll had several cousins, including Charles "Barrister" Carroll, and Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The latter was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.BIOGRAPHY: (7/22/1730-5/7/1796) Member of the Continental Congress 1780-84, Daniel Carroll also was a signer of both the Articles of Confederation in 1781, and the Constitution in 1787. Appointed a member of the Commission to establish the District of Columbia and the Federal City by President Washington in 1791, he not only gave his time and talents to the task, but ~~for~~ also arranged to permit a portion of his farm to become part of the site of the present city of Washington, D.C.Signature on
DocumentSignature on
CurrencyMATTHEW CLARKSON

photo #7

photo #8

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 11/29/75, 2/17/76, 5/9/76

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: in a letter 2/8/1787, Clarkson, as Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Lottery, asks the legislature when he can proceed with the drawing.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: Another Matthew Clarkson, a New Yorker, became President of the Bank of New York in 1804. Signatures of the two men are somewhat similar. Matthew Clarkson, the Philadelphian, however, died in 1800, eliminating the possibility that the two men are the same, even though, clearly, they were related. Both of the Matthew Clarksons who lived during the late ^{eighteenth Century} 1700's quite probably were descendants of the Matthew Clarkson who was Secretary of the Province of New York 1695-1708.

BIOGRAPHY: (4/17/33-10/5/1800) Elected to the Continental Congress in 1785, Mr. Clarkson did not accompany the other Pennsylvania delegates to New York, and does not seem to have served in the Congress, although he accepted the responsibility of acting as a member of the Philadelphia Board of Aldermen in 1789, and Mayor of Philadelphia from 1792 to 1796.

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

JOSEPH GARDNER

photo 

photo 

C.C ISSUES SIGNED: 9/26/78, 1/14/79

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a letter dated 5/29/1781, asking David Rittenhouse to pay Thomas Nevill £ 200 for the repair of the Pennsylvania Statehouse.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: None.

BIOGRAPHY: (1752-1794) Member of the Continental Congress in 1784 and 1785, Mr. Gardner was educated as a physician, but during the Revolution raised a company of volunteers in 1776, and commanded the Fourth Battalion of Militia from Chester County, Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Supreme Executive Council of the State in 1789, and, following his term as a member of the Continental Congress, he returned to medicine in Philadelphia 1785-1792, thereafter moving to Elkton, Maryland, and continuing his medical practice until his death.

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

SAMUEL MEREDITH

photo #11

photo #12

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 5/10/75

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a letter 4/12/91, in which Mr. Meredith asks the Court to achieve a settlement on a suit on land that he and his partners have purchased.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: None.

BIOGRAPHY: (1741-2/10/1817) Member of Continental Congress in 1787 and 1788, Meredith had an extensive career as a military and civil servant in the early history of the United States. Initially a merchant, Samuel Meredith served in the Revolutionary War, successively as Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, and finally Brigadier General, winning the last appointment for "gallant service in the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown." He was twice a member of the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly, a surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia, and the first United States Treasurer, serving from 9/11/1789 until 12/1/1801, following which he retired to his home in Wayne County, Pennsylvania.

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

JONATHAN B. SMITH

photo #13

photo #14

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 5/10/75, 11/29/75, 2/17/76, 5/9/76, 7/22/76

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a letter 12/19/1777 to another military man; Mr. Smith tells of the arrival of arms from France, including 48 cannon, 19 mortars, etc.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: None

BIOGRAPHY: (2/21/1742-6/16/1812) Delegate to the Continental Congress in 1777 and 1778, Mr. Smith was part of the Philadelphia gentry. He

enjoyed an English education, was graduated from Princeton College in 1760, and married Suzannah Bayard -- thereafter adopting Bayard as his middle name. In addition to being a delegate to the Continental Congress, his public service consisted of the secretaryship of the Philadelphia Committee of Safety in 1775-77, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in 1778, Philadelphia alderman 1792-94, and Auditor-General of Pennsylvania in 1794. He also was a significant figure in the field of education. One of the founders of the University of the State of Pennsylvania, in 1779, Meredith served as trustee of the successor University of Pennsylvania following its formation in 1791 until his death in 1812.

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

JOHN WILLIAMS

photo #15

photo #16

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 2/17/76, 9/26/78, 1/14/79

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a letter, 12/3/75, from Boonsborough, to Joseph Martin, asking Governor Martin to approve to Colonel Hart's use of the Valley of Boonsborough for food.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: John Williams, a North Carolinian, was a member of the Continental Congress, but Jonathan Williams, a

nephew of Benjamin Franklin, conceivably also could have been a signer of Continental Currency. Jonathan Williams, however, went to France as secretary to Benjamin Franklin in 1770 and did not return to the United States until 1785.

BIOGRAPHY: (3/14/1731-10/10/1799) Member of the Continental Congress 1778 and 1779, John Williams was born in Hanover County, Virginia, and at the age of 14 moved to Granville County, North Carolina with his parents. He was an attorney, one of the founders of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a delegate to the Provincial Congress of North Carolina in 1775. Mr. Williams was a member of the State House of Commons in 1777 and 1778, and served as its Speaker. Following his service in the Continental Congress, he became Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina from 1779 until his death in the fall of 1799.

Signature on
Document

JAMES WILSON

photo #17

Signature on
Currency

photo #18

Amanuensis C.C.

photo #19

Joseph Wilson C.C.

photo #20

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 4/11/78, 1/14/79

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a letter 7/25/76, asking Congress to compensate Major Butler for his services in the Indian Department.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: The signature of James Wilson has caused the greatest controversy among all of the autographs in the Continental Currency series. The Wilson signature not only is rare, but it is of special interest because he is the only signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution who also signed Continental Currency.

The genuine James Wilson signatures on documents or currency have two very prominent characteristics. The letter "J" in James is written in a manner that closely approximates a script capital letter "I"; the top of the letter "J" is rounded; it does not come to a sharp peak, and the lower loop is almost nonexistent. The "W" in Wilson is angular, and the two downstrokes employed in creating the base of the letter "W" come to sharp points; in addition, the final upstroke used to complete the letter "W" often is very long and swings over the "s" in Wilson.

A final, but not necessarily conclusive characteristic, is that

Mr. Wilson either signed his full name, James, or used the abbreviation, "Jas.", on all the Continental Currency bills that the author has seen. It may be that, James Wilson bills exist which carry only the initial "J", but none has come to the author's attention.

Some 1/14/1779 Continental Currency has been signed by a Jas. Wilson, but, barring a better explanation, it appears that the prominent James Wilson ^{permitted} ~~employed~~ an ~~Amanuensis~~ to sign some Continental Currency. The handwriting on the ~~Amanuensis~~ bills is much more rounded and far less angular than any genuine signature.

The signature "J. Wilson" also appears on 4/11/78 and 9/26/78 Continental Currency emissions. These bills were signed by Joseph Wilson, who was appointed by the Continental Congress on 8/14/78. The "J. Wilson" (Joseph Wilson) signatures are distinctive in that the top of the letter "J" comes to a peak, and the lower loop of the "J" is consistently quite large, and very often the two letters, "J" and "W", are formed without lifting the pen, thereby clearly distinguishing this signature from ^{that of} ~~James Wilson~~.

BIOGRAPHY: (9/14/1742-8/28/98) Member of the Continental Congress

1775-1776, 1782-1783, and 1785-87, James Wilson emigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1765, initially living in New York City.

*107 #61
Pine Tree
4/28/75
Photo in
Catalogue*

In 1736, he moved to Philadelphia, where he became a tutor at the College of Philadelphia. Following the study of law, he was admitted to the bar in 1767. Active in pre-Revolutionary movements, Mr. Wilson was elected Colonel of the Fourth Battalion of Associators in 1775, and became Advocate-General for France in America, guiding that country's earliest legal relationships with the United Colonies. He also was a Brigadier-General of the State Militia, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a delegate to the convention which devised the Federal Constitution. In addition, Wilson was responsible for outlining the first financial system of the United States in 1780, and was Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1789 to 1798. An extraordinarily capable attorney, he also enjoyed the distinction of becoming the first professor of law in the University of Pennsylvania in 1791.

CONTINENTAL CURRENCY SIGNERS WHO WERE IMPROPERLY
CASES OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY IDENTIFIED AS
 MEMBERS

signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

JOHN HOWARD

photo #21

photo #22

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 2/17/76, 5/9/76, 7/22/76, 4/11/78

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a social letter 4/22/85 to General Gates.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: General John Eager Howard, a Marylander, was a distinguished soldier and civil servant, participating in the Battles of Brandywine, White Plains, Germantown, etc. He also was the Governor of Maryland from 1789 until 1792, and a U.S. Senator, 1796-1803.

The signature comparison illustrated above clearly shows that the John Howard who signed Continental Currency was not General John Eager Howard. The distinguishing features of the autograph of the Continental Currency signer are the boxlike loops employed to start both the letters "J" and "H", and an additional, very distinctive characteristic is that the final "d" of Howard always has the upper loop ending in an horizontal flourish rather than descending vertically. The Continental Currency signer John Howard at times affixed his signature as "J. Howard," and in a number of instances his signature appears to be much more vertical than the example illustrated, but all of the "J. Howard" or "John Howard" signatures are variations written by the same man at different times.

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

J. KEAN

photo #23

photo #24

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 5/20/77

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: a request 3/29/1787, in which Mr. Kean, in his role as Commissioner of the Treasury of the State of South Carolina, asks Mr. Peter Bocquet to pay Alexander Chisholm.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: John Kean, a South Carolinian, was a member of the Continental Congress in 1785-87, and was appointed by President Washington to become Cashier of the Bank of the United States in Philadelphia. He remained at the Bank from the date of its organization until his death on 5/4/1795.

The two illustrated signatures show very clear distinctions. John Kean, the Cashier, formed the first letter of his surname in a very conventional way. Although elaborate, the left side of the letter "K" was formed by two flourishes and a downstroke, and the right side of the letter "K" was formed with a single stroke descending downward, looping, and then continuing downward to complete the letter. By contrast, J. Kean (and we do not know his first name) formed the "J" and all of the left side plus the top of the right side of the letter "K" with a single stroke of the pen. He completed the letter "K" by placing his pen at the center of the preceding up-stroke and swinging downward to complete the right lower leg of the

"K"; then he simply continued the remainder of his signature without lifting his pen.

Signature on
Document

Signature on
Currency

THOMAS SMITH

photo #25

photo #26

C.C. ISSUES SIGNED: 12/11/75, 3/9/76

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE SOURCE: Congressman Smith's acknowledgement that he has received his pay from Congress as of 2/7/1782.

REASONS FOR MISIDENTIFICATION: There were at least two Thomas Smiths in Philadelphia during the Revolutionary period. Thomas Smith, the Continental Currency signer, never was a member of the Continental Congress, but he did play an active role in the financial aspects of the Revolutionary period. He was Commissioner of the Loan Office of the Continental Congress for the Colony of Pennsylvania; he countersigned many of the loan certificates signed by Francis Hopkinson as Treasurer of Loans for the United States, and he also countersigned a number of the Pennsylvania David Rittenhouse notes of the early 1780s. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania also has been able to determine that this Thomas Smith was a brother of Jonathan Bayard Smith.

Thomas Smith, the member of Continental Congress from 1780-82,

was an emigre to the United States from Cruden, Scotland. An attorney, he held both military and civil posts from 1773 until his death in 1809.

The Thomas Smith signatures show marked differences. "Thomas", the member of the Continental Congress, formed the initial "T" of his first name quite angularly, and did not show an almost "J"-like script lower loop, as did "Commissioner" Thomas Smith. By contrast, Congressional member Thomas Smith began the letter "S" in his surname in a conventional slanting upward stroke to form the first loop of the "S"; while "Commissioner" Smith either allowed his pen to flow immediately into the formation of the letter "S" if he had employed the initial "T" rather than his full name in writing his signature, or, alternatively, he formed a relatively small top loop to the "S" in Smith, creating almost an "L"-like initial configuration. In addition, "Commissioner" Thomas Smith rarely crossed his "t"s, while Congressional member Smith customarily did so.

Although extensive research has been undertaken to assemble the data and reach the conclusions that have been set forth in this

article, it is possible that ^{it is incomplete} ~~there are omissions and/or errors~~. No numismatist, nor historian, as yet, can be certain that all of the signers of Continental Currency have been ^{listed} found and identified. On April 21, 1777, upon ~~the~~ ^{the} Congress' imminent departure ^{of the Continental Congress} from Philadelphia

~~to go to Yorktown, Pennsylvania~~, Mr. Michael Hillegas, the then-Treasurer of the United States, was given the authority to appoint and certify signers of Continental Currency. Congress did not ^{again act} ~~reassume~~

^{I goofed!!} ~~its authority to appoint currency signers until August 8, 1778, after~~

its return to Philadelphia. In the interim, Mr. Hillegas apparently appointed at least ⁵⁸ ~~40~~ men to sign currency, but ^{the} Hillegas' records have been lost and no one has a definitive list of these signers.

It is possible, although only remotely so, that Mr. Hillegas gave the power to one or more members of the Continental Congress to sign Continental Currency, and some time in the future, a collector may find a previously undiscovered signature of a member of Continental Congress on Continental Currency.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 16, 1976

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Lasser
119 Cushman Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

Dear Joe and Ruth:

I enjoyed the deliciousness of Jimmy's La Grange and the company of you and Ruth so much, I recommend you changing the dinner to customer entertainment.

It was great meeting Ruth.

On my way along 42nd Street, after leaving you, I was offered six other invitations, but I handed out Lasser for President cards in return.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 10, 1976

Mr. Joseph R. Lasser
Cyrus J. Lawrence, Inc.
115 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

Dear Joe:

Thank you so much for taking care of me at the two auctions. If you end up with any prices realized I'd like copies or xeroxes of them.

There is due you from me:

\$1,055.00	-	from Pine Tree
377.50	-	from Harmer Rooke
<u>\$1,432.50</u>	-	Total

Checks to cover are enclosed. I appreciate your motive as to the 1784 broadside but I cannot enjoy it without paying. You can give me advice but not treats like that.

Please don't get hooked on coins. It is a very dangerous disease. It spreads. It is debilitating and can break up a happy home.

The ten Continentals you are interested in are enclosed. Give me your best offer and I'll submit it to the owner. It is a lady professor.

The pink \$30 and the Wilson signature are returned. Glad you are in the pink now.

My best thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encls.

Oct 30 1976

Dear Joe = 12507

5th NC 1783 #149

the flag is most unusual. It has 13 stripes in the main field and 13 stripes in the place for the union in the upper left.

A careful study of the "typeset letters" shows they are hand engraved as each letter differs from the same letter as used elsewhere. This leads to the conclusion the piece is counterfeit. It is unique so far as I know,

Now the mystery writing looks like

F A S Q J ~~S~~ N° C. r

Realizing it is counterfeit and the counterfeiter could have had a poorly printed example to copy there is reason for the illegibility as he had to guess.

It is reasonable that the original had

FLA G OF N° CAR

FLAG ^{or}
IN N° CAR

The Q is impossible but the tail was obviously on a G originally as I see it. Thus I give a tentative reading to the false motto,

Now it's your turn to speculate (but not in the EN account)

Em

It was good to talk to you
this morning. Take care
of the cold

Dear Eric -

11/17/76

I really can't add to
your ingenious solution for the
N. Carolina 1783 piece. I am
most pleased to accept what by
rational thinking is a very
satisfactory conclusion.

On the Conn. 40s 3/4/62 notes,
I, however, differ. I believe it
more logical to think they are genuine.
Admittedly, on the reverse, the

FORTY, as you point out,
and SHILLINGS is quite distinctive,
as is the Connecticut on the face.

But after looking ^{at the photo} of 14638 which
is in ~~your~~ first edition 15393 in the
second edition and, my 9627,
the following is evident -- which
makes me think the notes are
genuine

① 14638 and 15393 have
the same signatures
Edwards
Pitkin
Wyllis (not visible on 14638 photo)

9627 has
Chester
Edwards
Pitkin
The signatures
very much look
genuine.

② 9627 is a combination
typeset and woodblock piece
- the typesetting shows by
the indentations caused by

the type on the back at the base of FORTY quite clearly.
 It also shows on the face where the small block of typeset print ^{on the} shows in mirror image on the front from the first line "The Poffeffor of this BILL" down to the 17th line "Cent. per Annum"

On the back

- (3) All Three notes have a broken T in

no downward hook → ~~T~~^{HE} Poffeffor

All Three show a characteristic downward slope in

Forty Shillings on the face

- (4) All show breaks in the inking of the wood block borders on the face in the same places where the type set apparently was a little bit higher than the wood block borders i.e.

- On the left of the front side above the vignette to the left of FORTY
- on the left of the front side at XXXX below the vignette
- on the right side where the horizontal border meets the vertical border
- on the right side to the right of the word Treasurer on the 2nd line
- On the reverse on the inside of the wood block border, just to the right and below SHILLINGS

⑤ You will also note on the reverse that the Roman numerals for 62
 M, DCC, LXII size

on all three notes and
 that Two Pounds.
 arches slightly and that
 the right side of
 the crossbar of the
~~the~~ T is shorter
 than normal.

In Summary, I think all
 four notes have been printed from
 the same ~~of~~ typeset and woodblock
 original, and that the remarkable
 similarity of defects plus the
 minor but visible variations in
 the signatures -- supported by
 the identical placement of the
 two upper signatures in 15393
 and 14638 and the variation for
 9627 (Green is first) all give credence
 to the probability that the notes
 are genuine. 9627 is laid paper
 with the heavier lines about one
 inch apart -- similar to other
 Connecticut notes.

I think that there is just
 too much that is right and that
 Timothy Green should have learned
 more from his ancestors and his
 cousins.

Best - Joe

Nov
1975

5/10/75

@K →

John Purviance

#7

- 72219 ✓

Please also
Bonne

J.B. Smith

#2

- 67312 ✓

5/20/77

G Budd

#7

- illegible

Wasser file

Dear Joe:

Your notes as to my holdings have
some errors.

Your listing of John Purviance #7 - #72219 as 5/10/75, but I
found it ~~as~~ 11/29/75

Your listing of J.B. Smith #2 - #67312 as 5/10/75 but it
is 11/29/75 also. Sent to him

Look for Budd